

**NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS  
WITH MARY IMMACULATE  
21 – 29 MAY 2022**



*"And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Apoc. 12:1).*

**May 21, 2022**

**(Feast of Saint Eugene de Mazenod)**

**Hymn:** To Mary or with a vocational or Oblate theme

**Introduction:**

In 1822, Six years after founding the Missionaries of Provence in 1816, Eugene was seriously concerned whether his missionary

group was God's project or just his own. He worried greatly about the future of his dear Society.

On the evening of August 15, 1822, after blessing the statue of Mary that we now refer to as the Oblate Madonna, the Founder wrote about a special experience with which he was graced.

We join together, all who live the Oblate charism, young people, Oblate Associates, Honorary Oblates and vowed Oblates, to commemorate this special experience. In a special way, during the last three days of this Novena for Oblate Vocations, we will join in the spirit and theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oblate Lay Associations Congress: "To Celebrate; Connect; and to be Commissioned/Sent

During this period of novena prayer for Oblate Vocations, we are invited to gather as disciples of Jesus, with Mary in our midst as at the Cenacle, asking that the Holy Spirit will renew us all in our vocations and pray for new vocations to our Oblate family.

**Scripture reading:**

From the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

**Meditation:**

We attentively listen to the words penned by Fr. De Mazenod to Fr. Tempier on the evening of August 15, 1822.

"The ceremony has just finished, very dear and most good brother, silence reigns in the house. It is broken only by the sound of a distant bell which announces the departure of the great procession. Satisfied with the sincere tributes that we have just rendered to our good Mother, at the feet of the beautiful statue that we have installed as a souvenir of her in our church, I am letting the others take care of honoring her with the external pomp of a parade which would add nothing to my perhaps over-demanding piety. Let this interlude be used to converse with you, dear friend, in sweet outpouring of the heart. Would that I could share with you all that I experienced in the way of consolation on this beautiful day devoted to Mary our Queen!

"I had not felt for a long time as much joy in speaking of her grandeur and encouraging our Christians to put all their confidence in her, as during my instruction to the Sodality this morning. I can safely hope I was understood and I can well believe that all the faithful who came to our church this evening shared the fervor with which I was inspired at the sight of the statue of the Holy Virgin and greater still by the graces which she obtained from her divine Son, I dare say, while we were invoking her with so much affection, because she is our Mother. I believe I owe to her also a special experience that I felt today, I will not go so far as to say more than ever, but certainly more than usual. I cannot describe it too well because it comprised several things but all related, however, to a single object, our dear Society. It seemed to me that what I saw, what I could put my finger on, was that within her lies the germ of very great virtues, and that she can achieve infinite good; I found her worthy, everything pleased me about her, I cherished her rules, her statutes; her ministry seemed sublime to me, as it is indeed. I found in her bosom sure means of salvation, even infallible such is how they looked to me" (Selected Texts No. 98, pp 117-119).

## **Moment of silence**

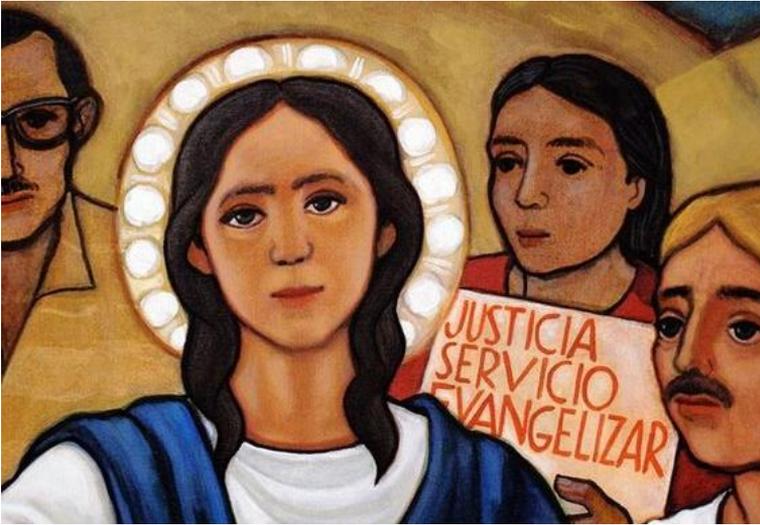
## **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

## **Hymn to Our Lady**

NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
MARY IMMACULATE  
21 – 29 MAY 2022



*Mary journeys with the Poor: Justice – Service – Evangelization*

May 22, 2022

**Hymn:**

The Magnificat or another appropriate hymn

**Introduction:**

"Open to the Spirit, she consecrated herself totally as lowly handmaid to the person and work of the Savior" (OMI Constitution #10).

**Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### **Meditation:**

"The angel came to a poor backwater place, Nazareth, to Mary, to the remnant of the people of David who were very poor. But it was a place where the dreams and promises were not forgotten..."

"The prophets have always hinted that a certain people know where God hides out. They talk about specific groups of people mentioned in the holiness code of the Jewish Torah: the widows,

the orphans, the old, the illegal aliens in our midst, the migrants, the prisoners, the oppressed, and those bereft and alone. That is where God hides out. We lump them all together and call them "the poor." God hears their cry and bends down very close to them. God bends close to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, who are all very poor. If God is going to come this year, it probably won't be to the great and the mighty. God will go---as always---to the people who already know God in the world. "The incarnation and annunciation say that God is hidden in us" (*Mary Shadow of Grace*, Megan McKenna, pp. 37-38).

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding prayer:**

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### **Hymn to Our Lady**

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*"She received Christ in order to share him with all the world, whose hope he is."  
(Const. 10)*

**May 23, 2022**

**Hymn:** "God Sends me to preach the Good News to the Poor" or similar.

**Introduction:** Mary, impelled by charity, ran through the hills to assist her kinswoman, Elizabeth. She evokes a sense of mission, of responding to urgent needs, even with the surprise of her own situation. She forgets herself and reaches out.

**Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. Luke 1:39-45

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

### **Meditation**

"As mother of all, [Mary] is a sign of hope for peoples suffering the birth pangs of justice. She is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us throughout life, opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love. As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles and she constantly surrounds us with God's love. Through her many titles, often linked to her shrines, Mary shares the history of each people which has received the Gospel and she becomes a part of their historic identity." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 286)

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding Prayer:**

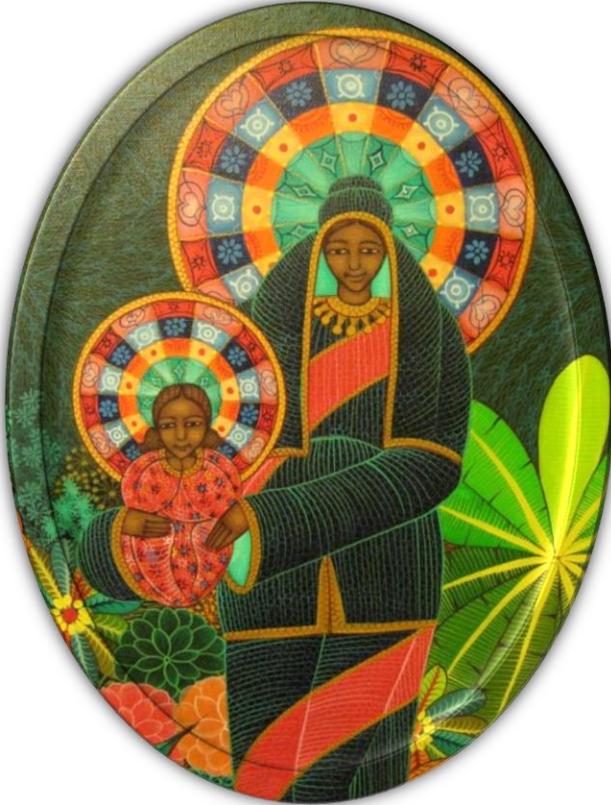
Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create

apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

### **Hymn**

NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
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*“With Mary Immaculate, the faithful handmaid of the Lord, and under the guidance of the Spirit, we enter into closer communion with Jesus Christ.” (C. 36)*

**May 24, 2022**

**Hymn:** The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor or other

### **Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **Meditation:**

There is a Marian "style" to the Church's work of evangelization. Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. In her we see that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong who need not treat others poorly in order to feel important themselves. Contemplating Mary, we realize that she who praised God for "bringing down the mighty from their thrones" and "sending the rich away empty" (Lk 1:52-53) is also the one who brings a homely warmth to our pursuit of justice. She is also the one who carefully keeps "all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). Mary is able to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small. She constantly contemplates the mystery of God in our world, in human history and in our daily lives. She is the woman of prayer and work in Nazareth, and she is also Our

Lady of Help, who sets out from her town “with haste” (Lk 1:39) to be of service to others (*Evangelii Gaudium* no. 288).

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding prayer:**

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

### **Hymn to Mary**

NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
MARY IMMACULATE

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*You are all beautiful, O Mary!*

**May 25, 2022**

**Hymn:** Tota Pulchra Es O Maria or other

**Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. **Luke** 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the

Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

### **Meditation:**

As Father Fernand Jetté stated, the title of a religious family usually expresses its nature, essence and function. It really seems that the choice of the title “Missionary Oblates of the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary” must have been the culmination of a new and deeper insight into the mission of the Congregation on the part of Father de Mazenod. He discovered Mary as the person who was the most committed to the service of Christ, the poor and the Church and saw her as the most comprehensive model of apostolic

life as required by his Congregation. In the letter he began to write to Father Tempier on December 22, 1825, one is struck by two of his reflections: a certain fascination with the new title as well as a regret that he had not thought of it sooner. He seems to become aware of the fact that, even if he had always loved Mary, he had not yet understood the essential role she played in the plan of Redemption. In searching for the patron who best expressed the goal of his Congregation – that is a person walking in the footsteps of Christ, committed to the apostolate of service and to the instruction of the poor – he had not thought of Mary. While in Rome, he understood who Mary really was. The title of the Congregation was thus born from a discovery that, in order to respond in an authentic way to the urgent needs of the Church, its members should identify with Mary Immaculate “to offer themselves” to the service of God’s plan of salvation like she did.

*(From Dictionary of Oblate Values, “Mary” by Kazimierz Lubowicki, OMI).*

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

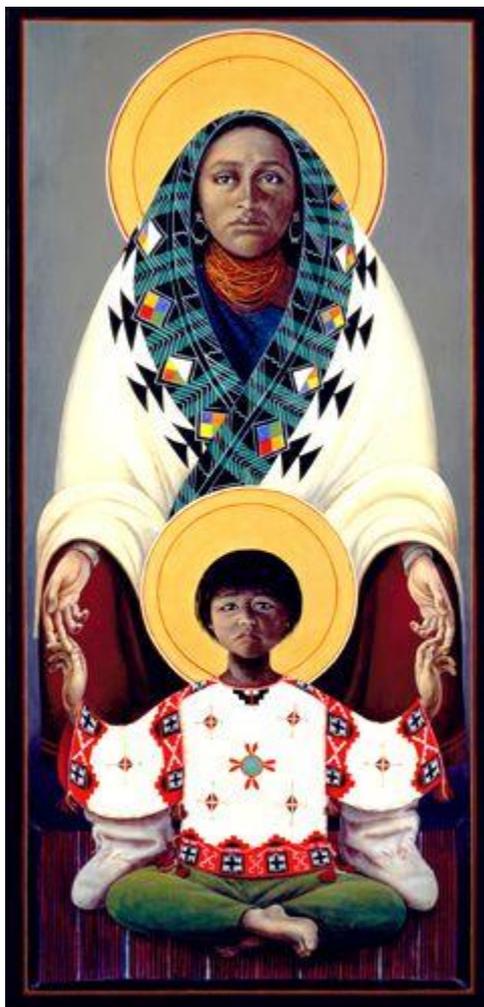
### **Concluding Prayer:**

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### **Final hymn**

NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
MARY IMMACULATE

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*Mary Immaculate, in her faith response and total openness to the call of the Spirit, is the model and guardian of our consecrated life. (C. 13)*

May 26.2022

Hymn: Invoking the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

Before he called together priests to form a missionary society, Eugene de Mazenod reached out to young people and formed a sodality for them. He observed that the strategy of Napoleon was to remove young people from the values and influence of their families and the Church to be used for his military and political conquests. Eugene called youth together to strengthen the good values learned in the family and from the Church, offering them a community of prayer, formation and recreation.

Scripture reading:

From the Gospel of St. **John 2:1-11**:

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good

wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **Meditation**

Devotion to Mary was an integral component of the youth sodality:

"On April 25, 1813, Eugene founded the Association for Christian Youth, sixteen months after his ordination. The rules and statutes that he wrote are filled with Marian thinking. From the very first lines, it is stated that the society in question is one "established under the intercession of the Immaculate Conception of the most Holy Virgin". Eugene got his young people in the habit of seeing in Mary the Mother of Jesus and "ours as well", a mother filled with tenderness, who in virtue of this title desires "to cooperate in [our] salvation". In the Association, "public declaration was made to honor and love" Mary with "unbounded filial tenderness". There is a clear idea of what love is: the trust that leads to a total surrender of oneself into the hands of the person who is loved. That is why it states that the association members 'openly declare the most complete devotion [to Mary].'" (*Dictionary of Oblate Values, 'Mary', Kazimierz Lubowicki, OMI*)

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today

and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

**Hymn** in honor of Mary

**NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
MARY IMMACULATE**

**21 – 29 MAY 2022**



*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law (Gal 4:4).*

**May 27.2022**

**Hymn**

**Introduction:**

The Son of God was born of woman. Often in history, the image of woman has been associated with betrayal, seduction and blamed for evil in the world.

In Mary, God reveals that the body of a woman, a poor, young woman, has become the temple of God's presence, the dwelling-place of holiness. God has signaled to all humanity the holiness of the human body, made in God's image and likeness.

Around the globe, Oblates collaborate with women in mission. St. Eugene had deep relationships with women. His grandmother, mother and sister were at the center of his life. The Duchess of Cannizzaro exerted a great influence on his affective life, his solicitude for the poor and his piety. He enjoyed relationships with common folk, such as Babette on the docks of Marseille, and with noble women such as Eugenie-Rose.

We are filled with a spirit of gratitude to God for the gift of vocations to the Oblate Family and for the tender presence of Mary Immaculate, our Patroness, among us. In this spirit of thanksgiving, we join together with all our Lay Associates, Oblate Youth and all who are connected to the Oblate Family around the world as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oblate Lay Associations Congress begins today. We CELEBRATE the joy of participating in the same charism. Let us we ask for the fire and light of the Holy Spirit to inspire within us a greater commitment to answer God's call as St. Eugene did.

**Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who

was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Meditation:**

**From the Constitution 10:** Mary Immaculate is patroness of our Congregation. Open to the Spirit, she consecrated herself totally as lowly handmaid to the person and work of the Saviour. She received Christ in order to share him with all the world, whose hope he is. In her, we recognize the model of the Church's faith and of our own. We shall always look on her as our mother. In the joys and sorrows of our missionary life, we feel close to her who is the Mother of Mercy. Wherever our ministry takes us, we will strive to instil genuine devotion to the Immaculate Virgin who prefigures God's final victory over all evil.

**From the Constitution 13:** Mary Immaculate, in her faith response and total openness to the call of the Spirit, is the model and guardian of our consecrated life.

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding prayer**

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract

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**Hymn**

# NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH MARY IMMACULATE

21 – 29 MAY 2022



*"The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, 'at the service of the entire plan of salvation'."*

**May 28, 2022**

## Hymn

On this day of our Novena for Oblate Vocations, we are deeply connected with all the members of the Oblate Family who are participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oblate Lay Associations Congress. It is beautiful to recognize how the Oblate charism is lived and experienced according to each one's specific vocation. Our present Congress is an opportunity to share and celebrate the diverse ways in which the Oblate charism is lived all over the world today.

### **Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. Luke 2: 45-52

"When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. It happened that, three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' He replied, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'

But they did not understand what he meant. He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with people."

### **Meditation:**

"After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Saint Joseph, her spouse.... I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience... My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how 'our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services

and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all'. Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all." (*Patris Corde, Pope Francis, 2021*)

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

#### **Concluding Prayer:**

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

### **Hymn**

NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
MARY IMMACULATE

21 – 29 MAY 2022



*"Mary Immaculate, in her faith response and total openness to the call of the Spirit is the model and guardian of our consecrated life." (OMI CCRR # 13)*

**May 29, 2022**

**(Blessed Joseph Gerard)**

**Hymn:** to Mary or with a vocational or Oblate theme

**Introduction:**

The Lord called Mary to embark on an adventure about which she knew nothing at all. She was called to be mother of His Son!

However, she became not only the one who gave Him life but also his follower. All of us, vowed Oblates and lay people, living the charism of Saint Eugene, are called to follow Jesus in his intimacy with the Father and his commitment to the Father's mission. On this final day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oblate Lay Associations Congress, we pray for all those who follow Jesus Christ according to the charism of Saint Eugene, that they may always remain ready to be commissioned as joyful witnesses of the Gospel of Christ.

Like Mary and Blessed Joseph Gerard, we too are sent out to continue living the Oblate charism. We pray that we will be empowered to live the charism with the passion, creativity and audacity of St. Eugene. May we be actively engaged in new and imaginative ways in the mission of God all around the world

**Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of Matthew 12, 46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

**Meditation:**

VOCATIONS: "Here is another major topic. Within a number of years, some provinces will disappear for lack of vocations.

Of course, it is God who calls, but if nobody among men makes himself God's echo, there won't be any vocations. A Provincial, every Provincial, must be actively interested in vocations: first to have some aspirants, then to assure the discernment of their vocation, and finally to see that the candidates receive an excellent formation.

In the provinces that each year have a certain number of vocations, I notice three things: a deep belief in the values of Oblate life; there is Oblate work to offer the young who join us; there is a systematic and continual program for vocations." (The Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, pp. 291-292)

"This call (to follow Christ) can take different forms, our words, our prayer, for example. First of all, it is "through the joy and generosity of our lives' that others are drawn to answer that call. People see the way we live. If joy, peace, confidence and friendship are what radiate from our lives, they are interested and they approach us. 'Where do you live? 'Why this happiness among you?' Why this goodness which emanates from you?' ...They ask themselves these questions and one or another asks himself, 'Could I live in that way too?'" (*Jetté, O.M.I. The Apostolic Man, p. 287*)

### **Moment of silence**

### **Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions**

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God

and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

### Hymn